PROCEEDINGS OF THE FIRST SESSION OF THE TRIPURA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY COMMENCING FROM THE 7TH OCTOBER, 1963.

11th October, 1963.

The House met in the Assembly Chamber, Agartala at 11 A. M. on Friday, the 11th October, 1963.

PRESENT

The Hon'ble Upendra Kumar Roy, Speaker in the Chair, the Deputy Speaker, two Ministers, three Deputy Ministers and sixteen Members.

Mr. Speaker : Questions. There are questions to be answered to-day. Questions by Shri Aghore Deb Barma. You will please mention No. of your questions. You need not read out the questions.

Shri Aghore Deb Barma : Questions No. 2 & 1.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Starred Questions

(To which oral answers were given)

Cyclone devastation in the southern part of Tripura.

Shri Aghore Deb Barma (Charilam) asked :

*2. Will the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge of the Rehabilitation and development Department be pleased to state —

(a) What is the total number of people with the total number of families affected divisionwise in the southern part of Tripura in the recent Cyclone-devastation ?

(b) What is the grant allotted for them by the State Government as well as the Central Government ?

(c) How many families have been given economic aid by the Government and what is the amount given per family ?

(d) In Sabroom area what is the number of Cyclone-affected families who have been given economic rehabilitation ?

(e) Whether the Tripura Khili Pan Byabasayi Samiti proposed to the government to give some donation to the Government for the relief of the Cyclone affected people. If so, whether the Government took the money from them and if not so, why not ?

Shri Sachindra Lal Singh (Chief Minister) replied :

2(a)(i) Total No. of people affected :

Amarpur -	about	30,000
Belonia -	,,	39,800
Sabroom -	,,	42,200
Total about		1,12,000

(ii) Total No. of families affected :

Amarpur -	about	6,000
Belonia -	,,	7,800
Sabroom -	,,	9,200
Total about		23,000

(b) (i) Amount allotted by the State Government :—

State Govt. did not exist then.

(ii) Amount allotted by the Central Government :—

Rs. 5,00,000/-

(c) (i) No. of families given economic aid :—

17,420 families.

(ii) Amount given per family : -

Varying from Rs. 15/- to Rs 100/- according to the circumstances of the case.

(d) In Sabroom 9093 cyclone affected families have been given economic rehabilitation.

(e) Yes : The Secretary of the Samity was requested to hand over the contribution to the District Magistrate & Collector. But no such contribution has been received by the District Magistrate & Collector so far.

Influx of refugees from East Pakistan into Tripura—arrangement for their rehabilitation etc.

Shri Aghore Deb Barma (Charilam) asked :

*1. Will the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge of the Development & Rehabilitation Department be pleased to state—

(a) What is the total number of people with the total number of families who hailed from East Pakistan to Tripura during the last 3 months ?

(b) What is the total number of tribal people with number of families amongst them ?

(c) Whether the Government have given some financial relief to them temporarily. If so, what is the rate ?

(d) Whether the Government are contemplating for their economic rehabilitation. If so, what is the detailed scheme ?

Shri Sachindra Lal Singh, Chief Minister, replied :

(a) About 2,200 families comprising about 10,700 persons crossed over into this territory from East Pakistan during the period from May to July, 1963.

(b) Nil.

(c) Yes ; about a sum of Rs. 10,000/- in the shape of food, milk, clothing etc., was given to the deserving people.

(d) Yes ; the Government is at present seized with the problem of arranging rehabilitation of 1,300 destitute families. It has been decided to send 750 families to Dandakaranya for their rehabilitation. Shifting has started from the month of September, 1963. In three batches 590 families have already been moved. The shifting is expected to be completed by January next. Arrangement is being made to send unattached destitute women to other States particularly to West Bengal as far as possible.

COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES.

1. Shri Krishnadas Bhattacharjee, Member.
2. „ Karunamoy Nath Choudhury, Member.
3. „ Umesh Lal Singh, Member.
4. „ Abdul Wazid, Member.
5. „ Aghore Deb Barma, Member.
6. „ Hlura Aung Mag, Member.

The Chairman of the last two committees will be elected by the members of the Committees.

Mr. Speaker : Now I will call Shri Umesh Lal Singh.

Shri U. L. Singh : Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, I am now making my speech in support of the budget placed before us by Hon'ble Finance Minister. Generally the budget is based on a plan. The budget gives out how money is proposed to be spent on various heads during the year in question. The present budget has been prepared on the basis of budget of previous years. The present budget provides for funds for every type of activity and the provisions have been made adequately. There can be no doubt about that. Every item of activity has been mentioned in the budget.

The budget under the head 'Agriculture' considers how agriculture can be improved. Tripura is an agricultural land. If we can improve agriculture we can develop Tripura in all possible ways. In fact agricultural improvement is the stepping stone to its all round improvement of Tripura. I would, therefore, say that the budget has been framed on proper lines. Previously Tripura was not a deficit territory, but for few years past food grains weighing 23,000 tonnes were imported. Indications are there in the budget that in the next year similar imports will have to be made. The Opposition Leader criticised the budget saying that while importing

food-grains we impoverish the country by spending the money outside. In this connection I would say that our productions cannot catch up with our requirement. So the necessity for import of food-grains arises. We discussed the reasons for the deficit yesterday. Our cultivators are not competent. So they are unable to produce the requisite crop. They do not understand that if they could increase the yield and could thereby prevent the flow of money outside Tripura they could themselves become rich and agricultural operation would thereby become highly profitable. The peasants suffer because of their inability to produce more grains. Formerly, cotton, jute, oilseeds used to be grown in Tripura. The quantity of yield has not decreased, none the less it has not been possible to increase the yield. The area of land rendered arable has increased, but uninitiated to scientific methods of cultivation our peasantry cannot increase the production. If we succeeded in increasing the production there would have been no necessity of importing food from outside and the wealth of the land would not have drained out. It would have been possible for us to earn money from outside by exporting our produce. Formerly, Tripura peasants used to earn a decent sum from sale of jute. The conditions have deteriorated, but the government is trying to improve the condition. The Government is trying to increase production of cotton and oilseeds by scientific means. Formely we used to grow tobacco, which has been stopped since partition Our peasantry have been hard-hit economically therefor. There are plenty of facilities however, and the cultivators can carry on their trade within the borders of this territory. For promotion of industries here we require the agricultural products mentioned. . So sincere efforts are being made to improve the condition of agriculture.

We face deficit in fish. Generally we import fish from Pakistan to meet the deficit. During the British days fish used to be imported. After partition of the country, however such imports have been stopped. The plan adopted by the Government to increase the production of fish is admirable. The Government proposes to clear up jhils, tanks and other watery areas so that fish can be reared there. I have no doubt that this will remove

scarcity of fish here. If we properly observe the rules of rearing fish the production of fish will increase in no time.

I will then proceed on to speak with regard to the plan for rehabilitating refugees. The area of arable land has decreased, in consequence production has gone down. Our peasantry lack the educational aptitude to adopt improved methods of cultivation. Arrangements have been made sothat the peasants can train themselves up in improved methods of cultivation. This will mean increment in the number of skilled labourers within the territory and it will be possible to give employment to larger number of people. I, therefore, support the present budget.

Coming to the subject of education I find that whole-hearted work is continuing. Formerly, the population in Tripura was less than it is now. So were the number of educational institutions. At that time education did not spread so much. Number of educated people in this country has gone up recently. Number of educational institutions has also increased. But various problems have arisen in the field of education. The budget contemplates various measures for improvement of education. The members of the opposite party jestingly urged that our boys do not know even rudiments of Bengali. During the British days their mother-tongue was imposed on us. The Mosalmans did not receive English education. They rather boycotted English. At that time for better education we should have availed ourselves of the facilities for learning English, The language in which we are speaking here is colloquial language. Formerly, Bengali was the state language here. The then Maharaja understood fully that for harmonious relationship with the neighbouring state Bengali was the best medium. Mahatma Gandhi thought of introducing a Rashtra Bhasa. That idea has been so accepted to-day. To-day various movements are continuing for establishment of various regional languages as state languages. Only that language can be accepted as state language which is intelligible to the majority of the citizens. Examining the problems from that point of view we have adopted Hindi as the state language. We have, however, given our mother tongues and regional languages proper position.

We have sent circulars to all the schools for accepting the mother tongue as the medium of instruction up to the secondary level. Certainly this does not indicate a step-motherly attitude towards our vernacular. When considering the question of adoption of a state language we should bear in mind that that language is most suitable which can be mastered easily. The Maharaja of Tripura was not a fool. He realised fully well that the language of the neighbouring state should be learnt. For that reason he introduced that language in Tripura. In the basic training colleges we have made arrangements for imparting training in the local language and our Education Department is approving of such arrangements. We should learn that language which has inherent strength and future possiblity We should bear in mind that one single language will not serve our purpose. We should not therefore lay all our emphasis on one single language. The plans for primary education, basic training, Higher Secondary education, we have adopted into the budget, are worthy of acceptance. Formerly, we had nothing. We have progressed a lot. We cannot at this juncture take a retrograde step. Moreover, we have here our own polytechnic school for propagating technical education. Arrangements have been made to impart education in engineering from that school. For these reasons I support the budget. It has been said that our land is under-developed in so far as industries are concerned. In the circumstances in which we are placed it is impossible to start heavy industries. Talks are continuing for starting sugar mills, cotton mills and other type of mills here. Unless the people to be employed in the mills can earn adequate wages by sale of the finished products outside the mills do not become profitable. In the geographical situation we are placed, the production of our mills may go a long way to satisfy our wants. But it will not be possible for us to export our products. Consequently mills cannot run. Our means of communication is not so developed that we can compete with outside competitors. We lack funds and skilled labour force. The Government has, therefore, advisedly taken steps to promote small industries. Bountiful nature gives us plenty of bamboos. Bamboo products of this territory have earned all India reputation. But the demand for

this will go down, because others will learn to manufacture products similar to ours. We have handlooms here and products thereof are in demand. To encourage handlooms the Government is granting loans and training up the people. We have taken steps to produce silk and to manufacture yarn from cotton. The budget presented promises prosperity and has generated genuine enthusiasm amongst our people. If the budget is implemented every citizen will become self- reliant. I, therefore, support the budget.

Coming to the subject of P. W. D. I find that roads have been developed. Those who are originally residents of Tripura will wonder at the development and may be thinking that they are perhaps in a new land. A question has been raised why we should bring electricity from Assam. I donot see any sense in the question. We may be outside Assam. But we are not outside India. The money we are getting from the Central Government is contributed by various governments including the Government of Assam. If we refrain from obtaining our supply of electricity from Assam, Assam Govt. may stop their monetary contribution to the Centre. We are all fighting under the same flag. Why then should we not get better things from beyond borders of this territory ? We have in Tripura 5 centres for generating electricity. But the cost incurred are excessive. If mechanical disorder develops the supply is interrupted and work stops. In fact the proceedings in the Assembly was interrupted the other day. It will be better if we can adopt a measure which will ensure an uninterrupted supply of electricity. If we obtain our supply from Assam, I believe supply of electricity for various purposes within this territory will not be interrupted. For these reasons it is proper that we obtain our power supply from Assam. We should supply power to the villages. In fact in the state of Madras electric power is being supplied to villages. Supply of electricity to villages will mean curtailment of costs of the villages and improvement of the industries This will mean further increase in production which will be beneficial to the territory. We should make the best use of the facilities at hand so that we can readily implement our plans. I, therefore,

support the proposal for obtaining supply of electric power from Assam. We should not consider the question of roads only. The Central Govt. has made arrangements for extension of railway lines to Tripura. Extension of railway lines upto Dharmanagar within this territory gives rise to genuine hopes. We have no water-ways because of natural handicaps. We have thus railways, roads, post-offices, telegram, wireless and airports. The airport of Agartala, it is a matter of pride, is one of the principal airports of India. Besides, the airports at Khowai, Kamalpur, Kailashahar have facilitated communication.

Mr. Speaker : I would draw the attention of the Hon'ble member. I would request you to confine your observation to the provision of the budget.

Shri U. L. Singh : The budget provides money for government activities. I am now discussing another aspect viz. Tribal Welfare. I am supporting the budget under this head. The arrangements made for the education of the tribals are satisfactory. Not only arrangements have been made for their education, but also arrangements have been made sothat they can improve agricultural conditions on a co-operative basis. To facilitate their attaining a coveted position, several model orchards have been planned and arrangements have been made so that trainees may live in hostels. Arrangements for drinking water have also been made. Attention should not be confined to one aspect, but all aspects should be taken care of. The budget presented satisfies that requirement. We complain that jhum cultivation meant deterioration of agriculture. So arrangement for resettlement of jhumias have been made. It is meaningless to permit continuance of jhum cultivation in the areas where jumias have been resettled ; that will not enhance agricultural produce either. The jhumias are being helped with scientific methods of cultivation so that the position of jhumias in our society really improves. Next we find the arrival of large number of refugees to our territory. They have been forced by the neighbouring state of Pakistan to leave their hearth and home and to come over here. The number of refugees was more than 70,000 families. They have been

rehabilitated here. Others, who are still coming, are being sent to Dandakaranya. The arrangements for their transit to Dandakaranya are fine. So the budget placed by the Hon'ble Finance Minister deserves our whole-hearted support.

Regarding forest, I may say that Tripura was formerly known as a forest land. The position has since changed for reasons of our own requirement. As a result of caprice of nature again our forests are on the verge of destruction. To prevent destruction of forests we observe Banamahatsova every year to impress upon all concerned the urgency of preserving and protecting forests. Although a large majority of inhabitants of Tripura cannot for obvious reasons afford to have brick-built mansions to live in, still the forest should be preserved, because we require timber for various purposes. If we destroy our forests the supply of timber will come to a stop. The efforts of the employees of the Forest Department in this respect are admirable. It has been said that on account of creation of forest reserve aboriginals of the locality have been hard hit. If arrangements are made in such a fashion that those who live in the reserve areas may cut down trees on condition of planting saplings, the forest wealth will not diminish. Our forest department people are planting various trees. So I should say that the budget placed by the Finance Minister before us deserves support.

The government has been very bitterly criticised for allotments of money for police. We should not forget that police is a department of our own government. Whatever the government does is for our benefit. We should not have any misgiving in our hearts that police is not for our benefit. The department is manned by our people. They are our kinsmen and they serve us. We cannot always provide employment to our unemployed youths. In the Police Department we may very well employ the courageous youths with well-built bodies. Every year we spend lot of money for Police, but our purpose is not served and we are compelled to appoint police from outside the territory. For example the B. M. P. and Assam Rifles are largely manned by out-siders. We have a border extending upto 720 miles. To protect the border we

require a sufficiently strong police force. The Govt. of India is anxious to avoid wars. So the necessity for a police force arises. If there was no border trouble we would not have required a police force. We see that along the border frequently cattle are lifted, persons are kidnapped and dacoities are committed. We know that men from outside borders come to commit the said offences. Non-military staff of ours also suffers at the hands of those offenders. Therefore, the necessity of a strong police cannot be disputed. The money allotted for the police is, therefore, quite proper. The Hon'ble Finance Minister has stated before us that he was unwilling to allot so heavy amount for the Police, but our necessity was compelling. Apart from the border troubles we have to tackle the antisocial elements within this state. I have seen that our thana at Sidhai was looted during day time and during a market day. We have seen unlicensed guns being recovered. Although it is a rumour that amongst the things recovered were some articles belonging to the Police,but that is a rumour simply. For the protection of our borders allotment of money for the Police will have to be made. We should never forget that the men of the Police Department are the men of our country and they are serving us. Duties amongst Police Officers should be properly distributed so that they can get ample opportunity to demonstrate their valour and courage. The Police force should have military training. That will dispense with the military and we will be in a position to protect our own borders. We have no military force of our own nor can we have any. For that reason our Police force should have military training. We have seen Police rushing to all dangerous spots and they fire whenever necessity for firing arises. For these reasons we require a Police force. So long we maintained that we did not require a Police force, but now we find that to run a Government a Police force is essential.

Mr. Speaker : The point has already been discussed on the floor.

Shri U. L. Singh : Thank you, Sir, I am taking my seat.

Mr. Speaker : Now I call on Shri Hlura Aung Mag to participate in the debate.

Shri Hlura Aung Mag : Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, I am addressing for the first time, during this budget session, the newly introduced legislative Assembly of ours. Those who courted mal-treatment at the hands of Police and who went to the length of laying down their lives for introduction of this Assembly deserve our grateful thanks and I thank them accordingly. The Budget presented focusses attention on 12 lakhs of inhabitants of Tripura. After passing through the feudal stage and the days of advisory board we have obtained self-government. The budget placed for the first time after attainment of self-government, we hoped, would fulfil all our expectations. But our hopes have been totally shattered. The territory of Tripura is a small territory completely cut off from the rest of India. Our population is not dense. Our financial resources meagre. Our men, therefore, are in dire poverty. The budget presented should have taken into consideration the poverty of our people. We find that every year there are famines in Tripura from the month of Baishak to Agrahayan. To remedy this state of things we are to increase our food production, but instead thereof we drain out money every year. Juxtaposed to this problem, we find the jhum cultivating tribals with their primitive methods of cultivation. The budget does not provide for any fund for economic upliftment of the jhumias. There is no arrangement for sending letters even outside. Our cabinet should have been mindful of these things. There is no indication in the budget presented that they have bestowed their attention on these matters. 80% of the tribals are engaged in jhum cultivation and because of the policy pursued by the Government of India their economic structure is on the verge of complete collapses. By creating reserve forests in Tripura jhum cultivation has been prohibited. The tribals thus affected have not even a morsel of food in their houses. Those who did not formerly queue up before controlled shops are now compelled to join the queue. The Dhebar Commission recommended that so long as they were not suitably resettled their present means of livelihood should remain undisturbed. Coming to the subject of education we find that jhumia students do not get seats in the boarding house and are, therefore, compelled to return disappointed. More money should, therefore, have

been allotted for education. Further the structures meant to be used as school rooms of the jhumias are all in a dilapidated condition. No step has taken to repair these rooms. Very often there is paucity of teachers. Tribal children are not properly dressed. There should have been ample provision in the budget for the jhumias. There is no provision in the budget for the scheduled castes. Reading the budget speech of the Hon'ble Finance Minister we find no mention of the members of the scheduled caste. Total number of scheduled caste people in the territory of Tripura is 1,20,425 roughly. In no corner of the budget provision has been made for education, upliftment or rehabilitation of these scheduled caste people. For that reason I say that the present budget belies the expectations of the people. For a number of centuries past kings ruled here and tribals lived under them. There is no provision in the budget for protecting the ancient culture and heritage of the tribals. Provision for this should have been made in the budget. In other states, languages of the tribals have been given a constitutional status and steps have been taken to improve those languages. In the territory of ours no such arrangements has been made. Swearing by the name of Maharajas some members said that Bengali was the most popular language in this territory. Our Tripuri language is recognised by the constitution, but I see no reason why steps have not been taken to improve that language. If the cabinet remains indifferent to this matter they will be inviting curse to the people. The Central Government has given ample funds for improvement of Tripuri language, but those funds are not utilised Giving training to a handful of teachers and awarding a few prizes, the Govt. discharges its duty. We want money to be spent for improvement of Tripuri language. It should be seen that money is exclusively spent for that purpose. Education imparted through the mother tongue is the most effective education. So we demand that vernacular be adopted as the medium of instructions up to the primary stage. Proper representation be made to the Central Govt. in this behalf. I request the Hon'ble Minister to recast this budget and send the same to the Central Government. Some Hon'ble Members stated that Rs. 21 lakhs has been allotted for re-settlement of jhumias. I maintain that the Government has

changed and completely new government has been set up. Through discussion and pursuation effective measures should be taken to improve the condition of the jhumias. Formerly, Jumias used to be granted rehabilitation at the rate of Rs. 300/- in the first instalment and Rs. 200/- in the second instalment. This sum of Rs. 500/- after purchase of a pair of bullock and ploughs leaves no margin, wherewith agricultural operation can be undertaken. They do not have money wherewith they can clear forests. So I think that the grant of Rs. 500/- should be revised and ample provision should be made in the budget so that the tribals get more money. So long as the tribals cannot collect their crops they should be properly fed, thereafter they should be properly re-settled. During the Advisory period jumias used to be granted at the rate of Rs. 500/- but our problems have increassed in manifold ways. Still jhumias are not given ample help. There is no indication in the budget by which time re settlement of the jhumias will be complete. Jhumia economy is on the verge of collapses. In competition with big business men they are facing extinction. In this predicament we should take proper measures for their protection. Those areas in which jhumias can carry on transaction in sale and purchase may be declared reserved scheduled areas so that people of different origin can not infiltrate there. The jhumias are under developed economically and from the point of view of business. They cannot, therefore, face competition with others. They sell their lands and go away. Jhumias are thus becomming completely destitute and landless. I request that Dhebar Commission report be implemented. The success of our plans depends on the upliftment of jhumias. If we fail therein our plans will fail. If a big boy and a small child are given food on and in the same plate, the big boy will eat up the food of the small child. So small businessmen cannot compete with big businessmen. Proper measures for protection of scheduled caste and tribes are urgently called for. Proper arrangements be made for education of scheduled caste students and also for their treatment. Due reservation be maintained for them in the sphere of service. The budget prepared for 9 months and allotments made thereunder bear ample testimony that the budget is top-heavy. This budget

cannot be said to have been prepared by our elected representatives. The budget smacks of bureaucracy. The budget should not be passed in haste or in a huff. If the budget paid proper attention to the welfare of the common men, it could have been accepted. But the budget has not been so prepared and I cannot support it. I see that rice is selling in areas like Sabroom and Belonia at the rate of Rs. 32/- to 34/- per maund. Added to that processes for realisation for rent have been issued. Prices of other necessities are spiralling. The budget takes no account of these features. The condition of the common people of Tripura is deplorable to-day. Every family is in distress. Foremerly, we witnessed huge crowds in Agartala during festive occasions. Now-a-days we do not see such crowd. Every man is hungry to-day, every cultivator is in distress. The budget presented has not taken into consideration these conditions. The budget does not promise reduction of prices of necessities of life or of rent. I demand that a definite promise be made. Only Rs. 5 lakhs has been allotted for agriculture. More money is being spent for realisation of rent than for improving soil. Food grains have been imported from outside but no step has been taken to increase our agricultural produce. This budget is reminiscent of the bureaucratic age and is completely unsatisfactory. This budget provides a sum of Rs. 9 47,62,000/- for a period of 9 months. Out of that sum a sum of Rs. 5,36,12,000/- has been alloted for development projects of education, medical & public health and a sum of Rs. 4,21,50,000/- has been allotted for quarters, cars and jeeps of government officers. The total revenue resources of Tripura is 55 lakhs. It is amusing to find that for realising this revenue an administrative machinery has been set up at a recurring expenditure of Rs. 4,21,50,000/-. We find that the school rooms in areas like Sabroom, Belonia and Amarpur which fell down during the last cyclone have not been re-built or repaired. In the result, keeping indoors teachers are drawing their salaries and the schools rooms are completely empty. There is virtually no student there. These efforts in the sphere of education are meaningless. We find this state of things all over Tripura. Moreover, in areas like Sabroom, Belonia and others there are many high schools and senior basic

schools but there is no comparable institution in the south. In Tripura there are only 2 colleges including a Government and non-government college. Because of rush of students to these colleges students from the southern parts cannot get adimission in those colleges. In view of their economic conditions they should have been given educational facilities in south. I suggest that a college be set up in the southern part of Tripura and proper funds be allotted for that purpose. Further I suggest that structures damaged during the cyclone be immediately repaired. We require senior basic schools in villages. In my area viz. Kalasi a senior Basic school can be opened. This area is inhabitated predominently by the tribal people. The roads in this area are under-developed and compared with other areas of Tripura this area seems to be cut off from Agartala. When a plan has been made to build 400 miles of unmetalled road and 437 miles of metalled road I suggest that roads be distributed according to the needs of the locality First of all roads in the border areas be built, then the roads in those areas be developed. The roads in this area are of great significance. The border police force may reach to borders through these roads. But necessary funds have not been allotted to the P. W Department for development of roads in those areas. The budget, has therefore, been rightly criticised as top-heavy. I should again say that under the budget a provision of more than Rs. 3 crores has been made for the police when the total budget is of Rs. 9 crores. I do not say that defence is not required, still I should say that in view of the small size of the state the allotments for police is rather heavy. I should demand, therefore, reduction in the allotment of money for Police and use of money for development purpose. I am of the view that unless we increase our food production we will not be in a position to defend our borders. The budget should have paid attention to these matters. I do not mean to say that allotment of money for the police should be completely scrapped. I appeal to the Legislative Assembly to scrap the present budget and to prepare a fresh budget so that the hopes and aspirations of our people may be fulfilled and their grivences redressed, so that a happy prosperous and strong Tripura may be built.

Mr. Speaker : I call upon Shri B. Das to Speak.

Shri B. Das (Deputy Minister) : Hon'ble Speaker Sir, participating in the budget of 1963-64 placed before the elected representatives of the people in the Legislative Assembly of ours I congratulate first of all our Hon'ble Finance Minister who has placed the budget before us with a view to do good to 12 lakhs of inhabitants of Tripura. I congratulate those through whose honest efforts and earnest endevour it has been possible to prepare the budget. I congratulate the Central Government of India for their generous help and anxiety to see Tripura marching with other states of India. This is the second day of discussion on the budget. Various criticisms have been made, various speakers have spoken. We expected sum positive contribution to the discussion from the members of the opposite party. They have belied our hopes and have indulged in unsubstantial arguments. Our Hon'ble member Shri Bhattacharjee in course of his budget address yesterday lucidly explained how the budget was prepared with the approval of the Central Government. Even thereafter the members of the opposite party are advancing thereon old unsubstantial arguments to our surprise. The Opposition has been all along criticising the budget as top heavy and while developing his statements the Hon'ble leader of the opposition observed that out of Rs. 9 crores 8 crores is going to be spent in payment of salaries to the officers, meeting the expenses of the Administration, allowances and Honorarium payable to persons and meeting other charges. He meant to say that the allotment of Rs. 1 crore is simply an eye-wash and the said sum is going to be spent in a hapazard and irrational way. I wonder how he could speak like that. If the Hon'ble member examined the budget a bit carefully, he would not have made the said observations. In the budget for the entire year 1963-64 you will find that a sum of Rs.2,30,55,700/- has been allotted for payment of officers, establishments, allowances. A sum of Rs. 11,13,25,300/- was allotted for expenditure under other heads. I wonder how as a representative of the people the Hon'ble Leader of the Opposition could make such an irresponsible statement. For that reason I characterise his arguments as unsubstantial. It seems that just because the members of the opposition party belongs to the Opposition they are determined

to put spokes in the wheel of the government. If that be the aim, I should not say anything. I expected that members of the Opposition party would offer some constructive suggestions or criticism. That has not been done. The speeches of the members of the oppositions party gives the impression that they want some heavy industries started here. For running thereof we again require top heavy administration. To run heavy industries we require very large number of employees, technicians and experts, huge amounts of money and to quote the members of the Opposite party a top heavy administration. The speeches of the members of the Opposite party are thus full of contradictions. They are demanding in one breadth heavy industry and in the same breadth they are criticising the administration as top heavy. I would request those members to compare the picture of present Tripura with the picture of Tripura as it was 10 years back to realise how far we have advanced. On closely examination of the budget the provision has made thereunder and aims fixed, everything required will be found. One member of the Opposition party demanded yesterday that the present budget should be scrapped and a fresh budget should be prepared so that Tripura may improve over-night. We have no Aladin's lamp, so we cannot change the condition of Tripura so quickly. By preparing the present budget we want to see Tripura progressing. First of all we should touch the problem of agriculture. To improve agricultural conditions the government has adopted several plans. No pain has been spared to implement those plans. If the Hon'ble members proceeded to inspect any field under any block they would see the increase in production.

Mr. Speaker : I want to point out that the Hon'ble member should address the Speaker.

Shri B. Das : Please excuse me, Sir. If one goes to any field under any block the administration which has been taken up by the government, one will see that cultivators are being trained in improved methods of cultivation. New methods are being explained to them and they are being supplied with better seeds, better agricultural implements and better type of fertilisers. We reaped our Aus paddy only a few days back. It will be noticed that yeild of our Aus paddy has considerably increased. Aus paddy crop is not

our principal crop. Our principal crop is Aman paddy. Our Aman cultivation has been adversely affected by natural calamities. Still we are expecting very good crop this year. Only our plans have made this possible. In the matter of plans we are not lagging behind any other region of the world or India. I mean more particularly family planning schemes. Experts are trying to implement the Family Planning Schemes through every primary dispensary of ours. The government is very very alert. In course of his budget speech the Hon'ble Minister assured us that there would be an increase in food production this year to the tune of 23,000 tons. This will be of immense benefit to us. We may be able to solve our food problem fully and would be able to save a lot of money.

Coming to the subject of Health and medicine I should first of all say that to-day we have 11 Hospitals and 15 Primary Health Centres in Tripura. Under every Primary Health centre there are 3 maternity and child welfare centres and we have 104 dispensaries to cover 4,116 square miles. It is clear that we have taken a rapid stride in the matter of Health. We aim to see that every man of Tripura receives proper treatment. We are not sitting idle. It has been said that there are dispensaries but there is no medicines. Only common medicines are supplied to patients from the dispensaries. It is not possible to supply all medicines from outdoor dispensary. Patients are classified into outdoor and indoor ones and separate types of medicines are prescribed for the two classes of patients. When patients are admitted as indoor patients they are supplied all types of medicines. In case of outdoor patients they are advised to obtain their supply of costly medicine from outside. If outdoor patients are supplied with sodibicarb only we should bear in mind that sodi-bi-carb is a basic medicine. We have various plans in the matter of health and we are making steady progress. We have plans for public health and we have allotted a sum of Rs. 10,83,300/- for that purpose. You know that last year in the sadar area and neighbouring areas a disease like cholera broke out. The epidemic was brought under control through the Public Health Department within 2/3 days. Whenever and wherever there are natural calamities and epidemics break out our Public Health Department's men rush with medicines.

A plan has been prepared to set up 3 child welfare centres under every Primary Health Centre and in some areas it has been possible to execute the plan. We hope to build up child welfare centre in every area very soon so that every child can be taken care of and every citizen can get the benefit of the Health Department.

Coming to the subject of industry we should first of all have a clear idea as to the type of industries it is possible to set up in Tripura. In the mean time we have started 2 industrial estates and we will start another within a short time. Through industrial estates we plan to build up industrial towns so that Tripura can progress industrially. We have 2 centres at Indranagar and Kailashahar. We have set up industrial training centres to train our Tripura boys and girls in modern industrial methods and technology so that we can obtain perenial supply of experts. We plan to man our industries with our men and boys, receiving proper training. It will then be possible for us to run our industrial institutes ourselves. Next I will refer to the small industries. We have made satisfactory progress in the matter of small industries. There are 4,000 handlooms in Tripura and the textiles produced in those handlooms are in no way inferior to fabrics produced in other states. Our weavers are so skilled that they can easily handle yarn of 120 and 140 count whereas weavers of other states use yarns of 40 or 60 count. The government has taken steps to supply improved machinaries to them, to supply them with loans and to open up dyeing centres. We hope to meet our requirement of textiles with handloom products in near future. We may be in a position to export handlooms again. Better tools may improve the quality of our fabrics. It may be possible for us to open up 2 more fruit canning centres. We are also manufacturing aluminium in-gots. We are manufacturing fountainpen here in no way inferior to fountainpen manufactured elsewhere.

Coming to the subject of education, I may say that proper allotment has been made, the allotment should have been bigger. Still considering the circumstances prevailing within Tripura and outside, I cannot say that the allotment is unsatisfactory. The Hon'ble Finance Minister has held out hopes of opening up a

B. T. College in Tripura during the 3rd Five Year Plan to remove a long felt want. This is a step in the right direction. I, therefore, support the budget.

Regarding the allotment for P. W. D detailed discussion has taken place in this Assembly. The allotment of funds for building up 437 miles of pacca road and 400 miles of kancha road is quite proper.

Coming to the problem of forest protection, I may say that we require timber. But forests should at the same time be preserved, plantations should be increased but the people should be allowed to live. We have, therefore, taken steps for plantation of trees, preservation of forests and have adopted several other plans. We are carrying on experiments in growing cashewnuts, sharpagandha and golmarich. If we can grow sarpagandha a specific medicine for hypertension, we may earn a lot from outside.

The allotment for Police has been severely criticised. To protect our borders and to suppress anti-social elements, in my opinion, more money should have been allotted for the police. We have allotted money for the welfare of the tribal people and have adopted several plans for their educational improvement and re-settlement. I hope that tribals will be re-settled soon, their problems will become somewhat easy and Tripura will progress towards prosperity within a short time. Some members of the Opposition party suggested that some areas should be exclusively reserved for the scheduled tribes. I do not endorse that suggestion. We can improve ourselves only if we keep contact with men more enlightened than ourselves. The tribals should accordingly be given opportunity to mix with people outside their tribes. I will not take any more time. I am convinced that it is possible through the present budget to improve the condition of Tripura. So supporting finance ministers' budget I close my speech.

Mr. Speaker : The house stands adjourned till 2-30 P. M.

2 30 P. M.

Mr. Speaker : General discussion continues. I would now call on Hon'ble member, Shri Bulu Kuki to participate in the debate.

Shri Bulu Kuki : This is the first budget session of Tripura Legislative Assembly. We have assembled here to decide the fate of 12 lac inhabitants of Tripura. I congratulate and thank those inhabitants of Tripura who have conferred on us this privilege. They continued for a long time their struggle for self determination and have eventually succeeded Hence this Legislative Assembly. They have sent us here to bring them prosperity and peace, to execute big plans for their welfare. The budget placed before us is said to be pregnent with a mighty plans which will make the common man self-reliant. Examining the budget placed before us by the Hon'ble Finance Minister we find that as a matter of fact there is no plan to spend money for the upliftment of the common people. This compels me to speak and participate in this budget discussion. Several questions come up to my mind. What the budget aims at ? What is our target, what will remove all our wants ? I do not find in the budget any plan designed to bring us prosperity. The budget does not indicate what will be our aim and how far we have reached our aim. The implications of the budget are vague and indistinct. There is promise in the budget that we will be independent of the centre in the matter of our economy. It is no use comparing the state of things prevailing during the reign of Maharaja with the present state of things. We demanded the Legislative Assembly to come out of the bog in which we were during the time of Maharaja. The Hon'ble Finance Minister states that in order to make Tripura self reliant in the matter of food we are to spend enough money, but the money allotted under the budget does not appear to me to be sufficient, nor will it help us in attaining our goal. The yield from land in Tripura is coming down every day. We know the condition prevailing in Amarpur, Nutanbazar, Ampi, Raima Sharma and other areas. The price of rice in those areas is Rs. 25/- to 30/- per maund whereas previously rice sold in those areas at Rs. 16/- per maund. I, therefore, think that it was our duty to increase the allotment under the head 'Agriculture' in our budget. Not only under the head 'Agriculture' but also under the head 'Industry' the allotment should have been bigger. In order to make Tripura self reliant we must advance simultaneously in both spheres, e. g.

in the sphere of Agriculture and in the sphere of Industry. Depending on agriculture wholely we can not solve our problems and may perpetuate our dependence on the centre for purposes of finance. That will be extremely undesirable and inglorious. Money comes to the coffers of the Central Govt from the teeming millions of India. So dependence on centre cannot continue. I do not find anything in the budget which promises us self reliant in the matter of industry. The budget has been framed without any aim. It has no concrete basis. It is virtually airy, I must say. To uplift the condition of Tripura we ought to start a number of industrial units so that the inhabitants of Tripura can find out means of their livelihood. Under the budget a sum of Rs. 14,08,000/- has been allotted for the purpose of industry but there is no indication in the budget that we have made any head-way in the matter of industries.

This Tripura of ours is famous for its forests. To increase our income from forests we have spent thousands of rupees but the income we have actually derived comes up to Rs. 5,50,090/-. Why we are unable to increase our income ? The reason is not far to seek. It lies in defective preparation of the budget. This budget does not promise us welfare or prosperity. So I think there is necessity for framing a new budget, if we are keen to improve Tripura in the matter of food and industries. If we are to make Tripura self reliant we must have bold plans, well thoughtout plans, but the present budget has the unmistakable stamp of bureaucratic handling. In the interest of our people a fresh budget should be prepared. Coming to the subject of Education I will concede the necessity of greater educational facilities. We must have education if we are to march alongside other progressive countries, but the educations plans we have adopted, the type of education that is being given through basic schools are going to bring down our educational standard. They are going to adversely affect our educational facilities. The present budget is not a plan for increasing educational facilities, but to diminish them. Those who pass out of these schools and go to Higher schools for further studies are required to appear in fresh admission tests and if they fail therein their education comes to a dead halt. I therefore suggest substantial,

nay total change, in the system of education prevailing in our basic schools. There is again scarcity of tools and implements in our basic schools. In the school at Ampi there are 175 students but in the eight classes thereof there are only four black boards. There is no other material there. There is nothing to play within those schools. There is no school room. In a small room there, 175 students can not be accommodated.

Mr. Speaker : Hon'ble member, I would draw your attention to one thing. While discussing the budget you are to place those matters before the House which you, of the Opposition party, would have incorporated in your budget proposal if you were in power. That is the scope of budget discussion. The matters you are referring to, may very well be matters of a cut motion.

Shri Bulu Kuki : The Tribal Welfare Deptt. do not think of the welfare of the tribals. We very often find tribal people alienating their lands and going away to other areas. No enquiry was ever made why they sell their lands. I, therefore, suggest that taking in consideration all these things the budget should be suitably changed. Present budget reveals that a small amount has been allotted for public welfare but a big amount has been allotted for the Police. The allotment for the police may be slashed to a half and the other half may be diverted to public welfare.

It is common knowledge that Tripura is bounded on three sides by Pakistan. All of us agree that the Territory of ours should be protected from external aggression. So I think we should have made proper allotment in the budget to equip the border people with some type of arms so that they can co-operate with the Govt. at the time of trouble in the borders. That will bring to an end the total dependence of the people on the military force for protection of our borders and will enable us to divert more money for people's welfare. I draw the attention of the Govt. to this aspect of the matter and conclude my speech.

Mr. Speaker—I would now call on Shri Monchor Ali to participate in the budget discussion.

Shri Monchor Ali—Hon'ble Speaker Sir, the budget for the year 1963-64 has been placed before us to-day. I welcome the budget and support the same. The budget has been prepared on a democratic basis that is why this day is memorable. Some members have criticised the budget, others have supported it. It is for the people of Tripura to judge the merits of the budget. After a period of waiting for 16 years we have prepared this budget on a democratic basis We know that the present budget is not self sufficient and it has its defects but defects are inevitable. Short coming are natural. The first budget of a State can not be expected to remove all the miseries of the State or all the defficiencies. Still then I can not endorse the criticism of the opposition party to the effect that the budget is top heavy and it should be scrapped out-right. Our Finance Minister has prepared the budget within a very short time. I congratulate him and others who helped him ungrudgingly in preparing the budget.

In regard to agriculture the opposition party has bitterly criticised the budget. I would say that the criticism is lacking in justification. They seem to be labouring under the impression that increase of allotment will necessarily mean improvement of the condition of the people. For that reason they are insistently demanding increment of allotment. In my opinion increment of allotment by itself will not improve the condition of the people. What is more important is that it should be seen that the allotted sums are properly and honestly spent. In order to improve agricultural conditions prevailing here the people should be given training in scientific methods of cultivation. They should be taught to use scientific implements. The members of the opposition have not paid their attention to this aspect. They are criticising the budget - it seems for the sake of opposition simply. Radical change of their outlook is expected and called for. So long as we remain outside the Legislative Assembly we may think who belongs to the Communist party and who belongs to the Congress, but when we come inside the Assembly we should forget our differences and should jointly and collectively think about people's welfare. The members of the opposition have repeatedly demanded increment of

allotment, but they have not put forward any concrete proposal. They should place some concrete suggestions before the house otherwise they should co-operate with the Govt. The members of the opposition know full well that soil testing has been started in different areas. Many have been sent outside to receive adequate technical training. Certainly these measures are aimed to improve the condition of Tripura and bring prosperity to the people. The members in the opposition forget that the budget should reflect the prevailing ideas of the time and should be tailored according to circumstances prevailing. This is the first budget to be presented before the Assembly of Tripura. Considered from that point of view the present budget has tremendous significance. The budget aims at improving the condition of 12 lac of inhabitants of Tripura. No question of opposing the budget arises. I should invite the members in opposition to closely study the budget and its implications.

To-day we are faced with the problem of food. Our Hon'ble Food Minister went up to Delhi to ease the problem, but he has not been able to bring any money. We are, therefore, to stand on our own feet. The principal aim of our budget should be the removal of scarcity of food. The framers of the budget have, therefore, a tremendous responsibility on their shoulders.

Coming to the subject of Education I find plans for improvement in that sphere. Formerly we had only 200 primary schools, in place thereof we to-day have 3000 primary schools here. In every sub-division we have a High school and Higher Secondary school. In some areas two schools have been opened. In villages Jr. Basic schools have been opened. Thus it is evident that we have made considerable progress in the sphere of education. China has failed to implement its five year plans. To divert the aggrieved people Chinese Govt. has committed aggression on Indian Territories. Inspite of these acts of aggression, within a very short time we have done a lot. I should request the members in opposition to think of this aspect of the budget. Indian National Congress is now leading 40 crores of Indians. We are aiming to march along with other civilized countries by preparing and implementing various plans. It is our misfortune that we are sorrounded by enemies on all sides and some of our enemies have started their attacks on us,

so the road of progress has been affected. The members in the opposition are all sons of this soil. They know that when we were in the school, the school fee was -/14/- per month and rice used to sell @ Rs. 2/- per maund. But to-day education in schools up to class VIII is completely free. We could have appreciated the opposition criticism if they had suggested that education should be free up to class IX. Some members in opposition stated that schools have been started for the tribals and hostels constructed but students do not get accommodation there, name of one such student was even mentioned in this Assembly. In reply I would say that for admission in boarding house the student should have proper qualification. If he has the proper qualification he is sure to get a seat. If he is denied seat arrangement should be made to accommodate him and investigation should be started by the Education Deptt. why seat was denied to him earlier. Before placing anything before the Assembly the members in opposition should make close and detailed enquiries. Besides the schools we have here one Govt. College and one non-Govt. College. We have a Polytechnic Institute. Many students of Tripura are sent outside for the purpose of receiving education in Engineering. We are thinking of plans so that boys of Tripura can get engineering education here.

One Hon'ble Member urged that the school damaged by the cyclone has not been repaired and steps in the matter should have been taken earlier. In reply I would say that inspite of our best efforts it is not possible for us to repair schools immediately because of acute scarcity of C. I sheets and other building materials. These things were discussed repeatedly in our Council previously. For various building materials we are depending on external supplies

The States from which we obtain our supplies take steps to meet their own requirement first and then supply our quota. For these reasons we do not get adequate supplies always nor timely supplies even. The members in opposition demanded repeatedly that number of schools should be increased, allotment of money for education should be increased. But they do not consider for

a moment that we have acute scarcity of teachers and lecturers. In the schools already started we have not sufficient number of teachers. We can not, therefore, think of starting more schools. Multiplication of educational institutions is meaningless unless we have adequate n mber of teachers. The members of this Assembly know that for shortage of staff with requisite qualification the execution of our plan to start a B. T. College here is being delayed. So I request the members in opposition to criticise the budget after taking into consideration the realities of the situation, technical difficulties we are to encounter. Demand for larger number of schools and bigger allotment of funds for education is not sufficient. They should have offered some concrete suggestions as to how the Institutions could be made effective.

Coming to the subject of Industries I will admit that we have a large number of unemployed people here Our Territory is backward, our roads are undeveloped. So it is difficult for us to obtain supply of materials from outside. We have, therefore, our difficulties in the matter of starting heavy industries here. In the absence of heavy industries we may start small and cottage industries to ease the unemployment problem. After our strenneous efforts continuing for a long time we have been able to obtain extension of railway line up to Dharmanagar. If we can establish our intimate contact with outside States, through these railway line it may be possible for us to start heavy industries here. Then we may be able to obtain our supplies and we may case our unemployment problem by starting heavy industries here. I request the Hon'ble Finance Minister and Industries Minister to keep in mind this aspect of the problem.

I have no precise knowledge regarding allotment of money under all heads. Still I should request the Cabinet to see that the allotted money is properly spent in an effective way. I request the members of the Opposition through the Hon'ble Speaker to support the budget and to generate enthusiasm amongst our people. I wel-come the budget and say that the budget is in keeping with the spirit of the type and has taken into consideration the practical difficulties.

Looking at the problems from the view discussed above I would request the members in Opposition through the Hon'ble Speaker to support the present budget and to enthuse the people.

Coming to the Department of Engineering, the members of the Opposition have urged various things. They refer to necessity of roads and have stated that the money alloted for roads is totally insufficient. I would request my friends to remember the past and to visualise the road then connecting Agartala with Sonamura via British Comilla. We have now constructed our own roads because our relation with Pakistan has changed. They consider us for all practical purposes as their enemies. We should not forget that we have in the meantime constructed many roads. The road constructed to connect Sonamura with Kathaliacharra has substantially changed the landscape. Formerly, those areas were inaccessible and men could not penetrate into those regions. Now we have undertaken construction of road from Belonia to the border. We have constructed one road from Belonia to Sabroom along side the border. To-day we have roads from Sonamura to Baishnabnagar, from Agartala to Asharambari, Teliamura and Amphinagar. We should take into consideration the road from Udaipur to Amarpur. All these roads have been built by the P. W. Departmont. Do not the Opposition members use these roads ? Those who keep their eyes deliberately shut cannot be awakened. I do not claim that we have made Heaven of Tripura. We have our short comings. As human beings we might have erred. But in course of their speeches the Opposition members have supressed the truth from the public. I want to express the truth before the public. To day railway line has reached Tripura. We can expect to get funds from the Central Government in the fashion comparable to other states. Still the Central Government is compassionate and considerate towards us that is why they give us funds generously. We have revenue resources for Rs. 55 lakhs only. But our budget is of Rs. 13 crores. The energy with which our Hon'ble Chief Minister and the members of the Cabinet are working is really worthy of emulation. If we are to keep pace with other states of India and to march along with others states it will be our folly to reject the present budget. They have characterised the present budget as top heavy.

The budget in fact strikes at the vault of the heads of the opposition members. If we continue to prepare budget like the present one the condition of Tripura will improve beyond recognition and the members in opposition will have to sit dumb and idle.

Coming to the subject of Tribal Welfare I may say that I cannot endorse the criticism levelled by the Opposition Members. The Government of India has prepared plans to give equal opportunity to all men. If we can resettle the jhumias then the said plans will become successful. The members in the Opposition are saying that if the hill people are brought down on the plains they would be put to inconvenience. They complained that instead of keeping the tribal people on the hillocks of Debtamura and Atharamura the Government is bringing them down to the plains to enable the jhumias to live lives comparable to the life of an average Indian, they are given training in agricultural methods. Jhum cultivation will not yeild any fruit. So that has been stopped. The Government of India has formulated plans to bring the jhumias on par with other Indians. The members in Opposition are distorting that plan and indulging in unjust criticism. If the Jumias are kept separate they will remain isolated for all times to come and they will never be able to progress. I suggest that everyone should see that jhumias are promptly re-settled and they get ample facilities in the sphere of education and training. Opposition may come from various quarters nonetheless we are determined to protect the jhumias to uplift them from their present position. If we adopt the tribal languages as medium of instruction their progress will be held up.

It is true that refugees require rehabilitation. I request the Hon'ble Chief Minister to expedite the rehabilitation through services, industries, and agriculture. I believe he has a plan in his sleeves.

(Regarding forests, I would request the ministers concerned and the Hon'ble Chief Minister through the Hon'ble Speaker to protect the forest of Tripura by all means. But priority should be given to men. Forests are meant for the benefit of human beings. The law promulgated by the Maharaja should be altered.) That

law has proved oppressive to many inhabitants of Tripura. ·I draw the attention of the Chief Minister to this aspect of the problem.

I will now speak a few words with regard to the Police. The members in the Opposition have stated the same things repeatedly. To the best of our ability we should discharge our responsibilities. If we make bonafide mistakes that is a separate matter. We are surrounded on all sides by Pakistan and Pakistan is indulging in hostile acts towards us. We remember vividly the orgys pepetrated during the year 1950 when Tripura was integrated with India. There were riots, firings, and cases of arson. Who saved us then ? In this context I remember the pictures of Teliamura, Sonamura and other areas. If the police did not come to our help then no human being would have been alive in Tripura. We require Police, the necessity of police is imperative. I do not understand why the members in Opposition get frightened at the mention of Police. We require a Police to protect our borders on the Pakistan sides. Again we have our border connecting us with India. As Indian citizens we are to protect our borders. We cannot maintain a military police. We have not that much of income, nonetheless our police is a good substitute for military force. I do not, therefore, endorse the criticism that allotment for Police is excessive. To whichever party we may belong viz. Congress, Communist or P. S. P. we require a Police. Going to inaccessible areas of Tripura the Police finds proof of attempt to set up a parallel Government. In a democratic state like ours it is reasonable to hope that Police should be properly used. Days of browbeating are over. So Police will not be able to commit any mischief. I welcome the Police Budget and request the Home Minister to see that the Police is properly utilised. It is idle to argue that the Police is the main prop of corruption. There may be instances of corrupt officers in the Police. But that does not warrant a generalisation. From the corrupt activity of, may be, a single constable, we should not generalise that the entire Police Force is corrupt. I congratulate the Minister concerned for the Police Budget.

Coming to the subject of Health I find that the Opposition

members are suggesting throwing out of the present budget. This is regrettable. They should have offered concrete and positive suggestions instead of indulging in bitter criticism. Formerly there was only one hospital in Agartala and there was no other hospital in Tripura. Do the Opposition members remember the hospital constructed in Kunjaban ? The hospitals constructed at Melaghar, Sonamura, Dhanpur, Baishnabnagar ? Are these not signs of improvement ? Have they taken into consideration the 20 bed hospital constructed at Sabroom, the Hospital started at Ghorakapa ? I do not take exception to the demand made by the Opposition members. In fact demands lead to improvement. We wel come a strong Opposition, but no such irresponsible opposition as we find here. If we reject the present budget we would require 9 more months to prepare a fresh budget. That will precipitate a crisis. The budget may be top heavy, but its implementation will lead to wonderful results. Formerly there was no arrangement for treatment of cattle in Tripura. Now we have veterinary services almost everywhere. So I say that implementation of the present budget is sure to bring prosperity and improvement to Tripura. If we throw out the present budget we will be landed into troubles. With these observations I close my budget speech.

Mr. Speaker : I would now call on Shri Gopesh Ranjan Deb to participate in the discussion.

Shri Gopesh Ranjan Deb : Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, getting an opportunity to speak before the newly constituted Legislative Assembly of Tripura I consider myself extremely fortunate. First of all I congratulate the people of Tripura. Then I congratulate the great leaders of Tripura who conducted the movement for establishment of the Legislative Assembly. I propose to speak something in support of the budget, the budget, which according to the opposition is top heavy and provides for cars and buildings for the Officers only. The money spent by the Administration during the last 4 months is required to be approved by the present Assembly. So that sum has been included in the present budget. We find that we are going to spend a total sum of Rs. 2,30,55,700/-

by way of allowances, pay, honorarium etc. to government Officers. The balance sum is going to be spent for various purposes mentioned in the annexures to the budget. Perhaps members in Opposition have not read the budget carefully. The Officers who are serving us sincerely are surely entitled to get some comfort. We should have that much of consideration for them. We cannot deny them reasonably good residence and food. It has been said that the budget provides nothing for members of the scheduled caste. But I find in that a sum of Rs. 4,00,200/- has been allotted for the scheduled caste. The budget provides for free boarding house for members of the scheduled castes receiving college education. The members in Opposition are still finding fault. They are, it is worthy of note unable to offer any alternative proposal or suggestion. It is known to us that whenever there is a tribal candidate he is given preference in the matter of services. It is not possible to keep seats reserved for tribals. If tribals are not available the seat cannot continue to be vacant. It has been said that the basic schools are not functioning well and facilities for education have not increased. It is inconceivable that everyone should have aptitude for learning. Every student cannot be of the same calibre. Our basic schools are functioning, students are being helped, progress is continuing uninturrupted. It has been criticised that the budget has not aimed at any target. In the budget speech of our Hon'ble Finance Minister we find various targets mentioned. For example it has been stated by him that to meet our deficit in food we are required to import food every year to the tune of 23,000 tons and to prevent this we should reclaim waste land, adopt improved methods of cultivation and utilise better type of fertilisers. The agriculture Directorate is working hard. Only Opposition party is putting up obstacles. Some members had been to my area recently and inspired the people there not to co-operate with the Government. Simple tribal people were not however misled. Progress in the matter of Health has already been referred to. We have here a number of good and competent physicians and surgeons. We are not required to go outside Tripura for proper treatment. These are sure indications of improvement of Health.

The members of the Opposition party are very angry with the Police Budget. They know we have a border of 720 miles and we have to maintain a police force to protect our border. We are to train up a Police at a huge cost. It will be foolish to send untrained Police to the border to combat our enemies. We find unlicensed guns recovered within our frontiers. From one place in my area the Police recovered 5 unlicensed guns and arrested the accused. So the Police budget cannot be opposed. The money allotted cannot be considered excessive. I support the budget therefore.

Coming to the P. W. Department I may say that road position in Tripura has considerably improved. During the present regime great improvement has taken place in the matter of roads, more improvement than under the Territorial Council. In course of budget discussion it has been given out that 400 miles of roads will be constructed. Formerly, we had few miles of roads. We were dependent on Pakistan. To-day we are not required to depend on Pakistan. We do not face any inconvenience.

Coming to the tribal welfare I find that our tribal brethren are facing difficulties because of stoppage of jhum cultivation. Of course jhum cultivation is not profitable now-a-days. We no longer have old jungles. Our Hon'ble Tribal Welfare Minister is working hard to remove the difficulties of the tribal people. Those who accepted the suggestion offered by the government have availed themselves of the advantages of the government loan and have taken to ploughing ; they are comparatively happy to-day. Those who are mislead by false propaganda and went into the forest they are facing trouble now. The allotments made under the budget have taken into consideration all aspects of public life in Tripura and aims at comprehensive improvement of Tripura. So I support the budget.

Mr. Speaker : I call upon Hon'ble member, Shri Nishi Kanta Sarker to participate in the debate. I request him not to take more than 20 minutes because more time will have to be given to the Hon'ble Finance Minister.

Shri N. K. Sarker :

Hon'ble Speaker Sir, I support the budge framed by the Hon'ble

Finance Minister and placed before the house. I thank them who helped the preparation of this budget.

The opposition is alleging that we are pushing the peasantry towards famine condition. They are complaining that arrangement for irrigation and embankments have not been made. But we have now our Engineers and I fervently hope they will do everything necessary. Besides that, to increase the agricultural produce arrangements have been made for distribution of agricultural loans and of seeds and fertilisers. I hope these facilities will go a long way to increase the production. At present in every area we have Village Level Worker to improve agriculture. We have in addition Officers of the Agriculture Department to advise the peasantry. It is true that peasants require loan and it is equally true that they are granted loans. They are now being given improved variety of seeds and better type of fertilisers. With the help of V. L. Ws these things are distributed. Arrangements have been made so that peasants can grow jute and can keep the jute wet for sometime. Arrangements have been made to enthuse the peasants but a section of men opposed to these things, are discouraging the peasants and are propagating amongst them not to increase the produce ; otherwise the Govt. will seize the increased produce. To improve the country agricultural condition should be improved first. Keeping this in mind the Hon'ble Agricultural Minister has adopted a plan to convert land yielding one crop into land yielding two crops and land yielding two crops into land yielding three crops in a scientific way. We have not enough paddy land and roa land.

Arrangements have been made so that paddy can be grown on tilla land or other things could be produced there. Certainly we can not hope to achieve all these things over-night. We require a large number of Officers to implement this plan, but if we increase the number of Officers the members of the opposition will become angry. But in the absence of efficient Officers of superior type agriculture can not improve. Tripura being an agricultural country improvement of agriculture is urgently called for.

Coming to the subject of roads I must say that many roads

have been built to connect villages, and a phased programme of building roads has been adopted. Hearing it a group of men are creating troubles. They are propagating amongst the people not to give up lands without getting adequate compensation. They are, further propagating that if roads are built the Govt. will take away the increased yield through those roads. The Govt. is thus between the horns of a dilemma, if the Govt. builds roads the Govt. is accused. If the Govt. does not build roads it is again accused. It is not clear how they want the Govt to proceed. We are going ahead with our grow more food campaign. Once the Hon'ble Chief Commissioner had been to village Gandachara. Noticing—scarcity of water there he made arrangement for supply of water with machine. Taking advantage of this a group of men propagated amongst our people that if water can be had with the help of machine why should you work so hard to irrigate your lands ? If we grant small loans to the peasants they will accuse us. If we give them bigger loan they will again attack us.

It has been alleged that for the purpose of tribal welfare we have a department, but no work is done actually. This allegation is without any foundation. There are roads, bridges, drinking water facilities and boardings for tribal children in the tribal areas. Perhaps the Hon'ble members are aware of what has been done in Belonia area. For the tribal people tube wells have been sunk, ring wells constructed. For tribal children a training centre has been opened in Bagafa so that they can train themselves up in some trade or some other vocation. We have a programme of opening more such training centres. We have a number of blocks for tribal people, for example—jhumia tribal etc. In some cases they are given grants and loans. Mostly they receive loans from village creditors. In some cases the Govt. itself is granting loans, but when repayment of these loans is demanded a group of men inspire them to say that Govt. loans are not meant to be repaid. Arrangements have been made for sending tribal students outside their areas for proper training. 'In the matter of education and services tribals are given preference and there are circulars recommending that other qualification being equal a tribal should be given preference. I believe that if the money allotted for the

tribals is properly spent their condition will immensely improve, but the party in opposition will always mislead the tribals and will put up obstructions. Regarding jhum cultivation, I may say that at present jhum cultivation has been completely destroyed. If jhum cultivation is done once such cultivation can not be carried on in that particular area for 10—15 years. Accordingly the jhumias are becoming luke-warm in the matter of jhum cultivation. Unless the jhumias are re-settled cultivation will suffer. Again they demand money. As a condition precedent to stoppage of jhum cultivation, where they are paid money @ Rs. 500/- the opposition will say that the money is insufficient. Greater help, drinking water and educational facilities are demanded for the jhumias. It remains to be considered whether it is possible to open up medical units, educational Institutes etc. for 2—4 families of jhumias every 6—7 miles.

It is customary to grant jhumias 5 kanis of land ; if they can cultivate more land there is no bar to their getting more land. Coming to the subject of health, I may say that comparing the present picture with the condition prevailing 10 years back there is no escape from the conclusion that we have considerably improved. Formerly entire villages used to be depopulated on account of malaria, pox etc. Because of malaria unit, small pox unit and other units opened there epidemics have been completely checked. We have undoubtedly improved in the sphere of health. Considering all these I support the budget.

Mr. Speaker : I would now call on Hon'ble Finance Minister to reply.

Shri S. L. Singh : Hon'ble Speaker Sir, I propose to give my replies to the budget discussion. We should first of all bear in mind that socialistic economy is being introduced to Tripura which means change in the economic structure, change in the thoughts and ideas of the people, to implement which change the Legislative Assembly has been brought to being. We are to consider not only the problems of Tripura we should orient our thinking in the light of economy of other States of India, that is to say, our thinking should be on all India basis. The budget presented here was prepared in the light of these things. We have tried our best to prepare our budget inconformity with the First, Second and Third

Five Year Plans of India. Great thinkers of India, erudite scholars and reputed economists prepared those plans. The democratic basis of those plans has opened up a new chapter in world history. Revolutionary changes have been introduced in the economy of countries in the light of those plans. The budget of Tripura should be examined in the perspective of those plans.

To-day our country has been attacked by a neighbouring country with which we were most friendly. In this connexion I will say that Five Year Plans of China have failed. The Chinese Govt. has forfeited the confidence of the people and the angry Chinese people are now being diverted towards India. The Chinese want that Five Year Plans in India do also fail. India is accordingly trying to resist these aggressions. Tripura is following the lead given by the Govt. of India. Our greatest misfortune is that our another neighbour, Pakistan is at this moment Co-operating with China. Tripura is in danger to-day. Peace and tranquility in Tripura are in jeopardy. To keep peace within our borders, to protect our borders, to implement our Five Year Plans we must take proper steps. In the eye of law every man is equal It is the duty of the State to enable them to live in peace and security. Considered from that point of view it is not unreasonable to spend more money for the police. The police force is required to maintain law and order within the Territory. First of all the Union Territory of Tripura should be protected, other things given there-after. I do not know whether the opposition has considered this aspect of the matter. We are mouthing slogans like ' will not spare him who attacks our country" but in practice we are creating difficult situation. To say that the police budget should be thrown out is to invite Pakistan and China to Tripura. The budget has been prepared to meet the present situation.

Recently there were two devastating cyclones on our Territory. Many people were affected by those cyclones. In the budget a decent sum has been allotted for their relief and help. Those who are looked at this feature of the budget they can not say that common men are being neglected. It is not proper to argue that the budget has been prepared without any plan or programme. The

budget has been prepared after formulating several plans and programmes. Imbibing ideas from the parliament of India Tripura has prepared a budget with the help of the Central Govt. To maintain law and order within Tripura we are, in the present circumstances, to spend more money for the police. This is surprising that this elementary thing does not occur to the opposition.

Some members allege that out of Rs. 9 crores 8 crores has been allotted for the comfort of Govt. Officers. Some have again complained that to realise revenue of Rs. 55 lacs, crores of rupees is being spent on the administrative machinery.

These utterences indicate the attitude of opposition as for the sake of opposition only. Some of my friends urged that they were afraid of police. To-day only those people who are engaged in anti-social activities need be afraid of the police because police is to-day serving democratic people. Some have commented that there are political prisoners to-day for which we should think. During an emergency period if necessities of law and order so required, however great pain we may feel, we should have no hesitation to throw anti-social element behind the present bar. In the context of National Emergency this can not be considered wrong. In the Democratic State of Great Britain we saw that during the world war II Mosley and members of his party were imprisoned. If England was a country ruled by a Dictator many more men would have been imprisoned at that time. In the context of the National Emergency to-day, I thought that allotment of Rs. 3 crores in this budget for maintenance of law and order would be unanimously approved. Instead I find that some are criticising this allotment. Those who are criticising are engaged inviting China, inviting Pakistan. They forget that the Govt. is pledged to protect the Territory from external aggression. Police is also necessary for maintaining law and order. We know that gun manufacturing factories have been found out in Tripura. Unlicensed gun, ammunitions etc. are frequently recovered. Do not these things indicate that law and order situation should be constantly watched ? These members demand that arms and ammunitions should be manufactured to resist foreign aggression, vast

armies should be trained up for that purpose and in the same breath they want the budget to be reduced. This reveals an inconsistent attitude. Their criticism reveals traces of obsolescent thinking of fudal times. The present budget is approved by the Govt. The budget is the budget of the people. Only those who do not believe in socialist State will demand throwing out of the budget. The members opposing the budget propagate amongst the jhumias "do not give up jhum cultivation", while the tribals themselves represent to us that jhum cultivation is insufficient for their maintenance. For that reason jhum cultivation is being naturally given up. The system is gradually dying. During the time of the Maharaja the law forbade the jhumias from cutting down any tree. To-day we are permitting the jhumias to cut down trees even in reserved forest areas and we are giving them employment in plantation areas. We can not tolerate the system of jhum cultivation because those trees which are necessary for jhum cultivation are not to be found in these days in abandance. It has again been seen that jhum cultivation adversely affects fertility of the soil. It has been demonstrated that a land which was cultivated in jhum style three times can not be brought under jhum cultivation any more. Formerly we had lofty trees, to-day we have in their place only small shrubs. For these reasons the soil is eroding fast.

Nature takes its own revenge. Rivers and tanks get flooded very soon and rain fall is decreasing. Formerly in Tripura we used to have 85 to 120 inches of rain every year. Now we have only 40 to 45 inches of rain annualy. If soil erosion continues at the present rate, Tripura will very soon become a barren land and almost a desert. The formar kingdom of Texsila is now a desert. Indiscriminate cutting of trees in that kingdom made the soil barren. For these reasons forests are to be preserved if Tripura is to survive. We have made adequate arrangement. For our tribal brethren we have constituted forest villages.

Wicked people deserve to be sent to the prison because they can disturb law and order situation. The Govt. owes the duty to every citizen so that he can live in peace. Those who are law abiding need not fear the police unnecessarily. But those who

are not law abiding naturally get frightened at the sight of the police.

Some observations have been made with regard to forest reserves. Some member of the opposition stated yesterday that he did not precisely remember the name of the law but he was sure that there was some law relating to forest reserve. We are sure he meant Land Reforms Act which is operative in Tripura Land Reforms Act was passed by the Parliament in the presence of the leaders of the opposition there. The Parliament gave some protection to the tribal people. The protection is that they will be able to sell lands to member of any other community, but they will have to obtain prior sanction. This protection has been given to protect their culture. Such protection was not given to them during the days of the Maharaja. We have thus done what the Maharaja did not do. The folk dance and dramas have been popularised, moreover, a programme in Tripuri is broadcast on the wireless radio every day.

Tripuri includes the languages spoken by the Halam, Mag, Kuki and Lushai. Some opposition member commented that tribal people are finding it difficult to learn Bengali so in their case a tribal language should have been adopted as the medium of instruction. This argument can not be taken into serious consideration when we see that in Tripura itself the tribal people speak in a number of tribal dialects, the dialect of one tribe is not intelligible to another. We are however, trying to improve all the dialects and for that purpose we have awarded prizes for writing out books in different dialects. We have, provided for funds in the budget to award such prizes. I say, therefore, that tribal people have been given protection. Adequate steps have been taken so that their distinct culture does not get a rude shock when they come in contact with other people. Accordingly reserve forests and forest villages have been created. Appropriate jobs are given to the tribal people. Their mode of life can not be changed abruptly. So it has been planned that their mode of life should be changed gradually and as and when they change they should be granted land in batches. 15,000 families which have been able to adapt themselves to such changes have been granted lands.

The budget provides for resettlement in that fashion of 1,000 jhumia families in addition. The budget has been framed in such a fashion that the jhumias do not get a sudden jolt. One educationist observed that basic education would bring a ruin to Tripura. This assertion is preposterous. We are to remove all anomalies in thinking. For that purpose there should be spread of education. In all civilized countries through education anomalies in the world of thinking were removed. In the matter of propagation of education scientific methods are being applied in Tripura as is being done in the rest of the country. These methods have been approved by the great thinkers and scientists of India.

The Govt. has, therefore, availed itself of those methods. These methods, we find, have been well received everywhere. We are getting a tremendous response. The members of the opposition are making inconsistent demands and in one and the same breath they are demanding protection of distinct culture and they are demanding stoppage of basic education. Basic education has been started for the protection of the indigenous culture of the sons of this soil. Those who are interested in sports and pastimes are given training in those lines, those who are used to spin charkha are encouraged in that. In this fashion distinct cultures, distinct occupations, different modes of living of tribal people have been preserved. Their languages are being fostered and developed. Tripura is thus progressing well. In fine, our aim is to implement the Five Year Plans and we are determined regarding that. We did not like to bring men for this purpose from outside. We have brought people of Indian origin to this State for implementing the plans. The experiments of we are thus continuing have earned lavish praise from foreign dignatories. This has aroused the jealousy of some of our neighbouring States. They fear that if India becomes fully democratic then they may be injured. For that reason they thought it wise to attack India so that India can not become the cynosure of all eyes.

Reference has been made to taxes levied in this Territory. Here motor vehicle tax, entertainment tax and excise tax are realised. Tax burden here is not heavy as in other States. The

members of the opposition should have borne this in mind. Regarding agricultural programme it has been said that at presnt we are importing 23 thousand tons of food grains annually. In the present budget such a plan has been adopted so that we ourselves can produce this 23 thousand tons of foodgrains. The opposition demands that this budget should be thrown out.

Such a demand is only consistent with communist philosophy which teaches to discount people's welfare. There is no country which does not require a police or an army. Initially we expected that we would not require any police or military because we had trust in our neighbours but as soon as China attacked India it became impossible for us to remain idle. Next it has been contended that Tripura has not prospered a whit. This allegation is unfounded—only the champions of Russia and China would propagate such views. They do not find anything to admire in any other country, not even democratic institutions. We should not care for their opinion. The entire free world has praised our achievement. Because of Chinese aggression we have been compelled to maintain an army. Again it has been criticised that budget is top heavy. It has been questioned what benefit the people of Tripura will get from the Govt. Officers have been given more amenities then they deserve. In answer I would say that comparing the mode of living of Officers in the West Bengal with Officers here they will be convinced that the criticism is meaningless. The members of the opposition are comparing a socialist State with a democratic State but they forget that here in many areas we are to provide quarters even to class IV employees In the present budget we have provided funds for construction of quarters for labourers even. The members in opposition should have taken care to see this. The employees of this Assembly get far less remuneration than employees in the Assembly of other States. Within Rs. 13 crores only 2 crores is meant for the administration. According to the opposition this is top heavy administration. They forget that to get rid of any one Officer is to prevent execution of one plan. Govt. employees can not be dispensed with so easily. The employees will not suffer indignities or oppression at the hands of legislature.

This Assembly or even the Parliament has no such power. The members of the opposition want to enjoy all benefits but they would not work hard. They can make impossible promises but we cannot. They have not offered a single concrete suggestion. All their criticisms are bitter and adverse. They say, don't employ Police, stop jhumia resettlement, stop refugee rehabilitation These are the samples of their constructive suggestions. Improvement of condition of the jhumias or refugees means improvement of the Tripura as a whole. We propose to give them land, but before we give them land we should survey our lands. We have accordingly borrowed employees from West Bengal. We are obliged to give them reasonable comforts because they are used to such comforts. Not only men from West Bengal but men from other States have also come to help us. I congratulate them because they consider Tripura as a part of India. For that reason they are so anxious to help Tripura. Under the Social Welfare Scheme prevailent in Tripura and under the jhumia resettlement scheme we plan to uplift all the backward underdeveloped castes and tribes of Tripura in all spheres. viz. in the sphere of education. service etc. and we have, therefore, kept various reservations for them.

We have opened a T. B. sanatorium here and we hope that within December next we will have a hospital of 50 beds. Able physicians and surgeons have come to Tripura. At present we are not required to go to Calcutta for treatment. We have here a new hospital of 250 beds. We have brought from outside specialists in children diseases which we could never dream in Tripura. Thus our dreams have been fulfilled. Formerly malaria used to create a havoc. We have now eradicated malaria. We have a plan to eradicate small pox similarly and we are working hard to execute that plan.

When we consider our advancement in the sphere of education we should bear in mind that for our Multipurpose schools we were to bring teachers from outside. At present, however, we are not required to bring teachers from outside. We are not required to send our teachers to Calcutta to qualify for the B. T. Course.

Because of scarcity of seats in hospitals we should think if it is possible to start a Medical College here. Polytechnic Institute has been started, and how that Institute can be converted into an Engineering College should be carefully thought out. One friend asked me what is the reason for getting supply of electricity from Assam. In answer I would tell my friend that when we are getting money from centre there is no harm in getting our supply from Assam. If we accept the Dumbur project the party in opposition will oppose. In fact when we started to work on the Dumbur project they raised a hue and cry that a large number of tribal people would be seriously affected. To build up industries we must have cheap electricity That can be had from Umium Hydro Electric project in Assam.

Some friends asked why so much money has been allotted for jute and why the Govt. is not purchasing jute at present. The reason is not far to seek. At present jute sells at Rs. 25/- per maund To stabilise the price of jute and to prevent injury to the jute grower we would spend that money in purchasing jute when the price will reveal a tendency to go down. So I hope that everyone should appreciate our plan and give us support and will support the budget so that we can protect our borders, we can strengthen the economy of Tripura and cover ourselves with glory.

Regarding roads, I may say that 400 miles of roads will be built. Some metalled roads and some unmetalled roads will be built. In the Territory of Tripura unlike any other States it is very very difficult to build pacca roads. The members in opposition know of that difficulty full well. Still for the sake of opposition they will oppose the budget. When Tripura was integrated with India we had only 6 miles of roads. At present we have 123 miles of roads from here to Dharmanagar and 90 miles of roads from here to Sabroom. To-day all the sub-divisions are well connected by roads. Not only that 8 miles of road from Manu to Bagafa have been built. To build roads we require Engineers. We had few Engineers here in Tripura but now in very Engineering Division we have an Executive Engineer.

Under every Executive Engineer there are at least 25 Overseers. This means an expenditure of 2½ crores of rupees for this Deptt. only. It is no exaggeration to say that we have no technical men. Starting from a scratch we are contemplating to build 430 miles of roads. For that purpose we are to import coal. We are importing allied things from Calcutta. All India is now having plans so are we. Every State requires coal. We also require thousands of tons of coal. Formerly we did not have men competent to manufacture bricks. At present we have a large number of men having the requisite competence. Formerly our men did not know how to make metal roads, now they have learnt that. Everything depend on means of communication. To improve means of communication the land requires to be surveyed. We require experts for surveying our lands. We require to acquire lands for which notices are to be served. This can not be expedited as we wish. √If we can properly implement the budget, I am confident, we will be able to build up a prosperous and happy Tripura. I hope that every man and woman of Tripura will co-operate with us and will support us in the campaign we are carrying on for increasing our food production. I hope that every inhabitant of Tripura will support our development plans and will discharge their share of responsibility. In this way a strong Tripura will be built up soon.

Mr. Speaker : The general discussion of the budget is over. House stands adjourned till Monday, 11 A. M. when voting on demand on grants and cut motions will be taken up.